

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EA/ K: DLRANARD

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 120371

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TOKYO, USUN, COMUSK, CINCPAC,
COMUSJ FROM SEOUL JUN 20 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T SEOUL 3913

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS 2

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: ROK FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES

REF: A. SEOUL 3900 B. STATE 118917

1. I MET WITH FONMIN KIM THIS MORNING TO CONTINUE OUR
DISCUSSION ON PRESIDENT PARK' S JUNE 23 STATEMENT ON ROK
FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES. KIM TOLD ME HE BRIEFED PRESIDENT
PARK LAST NIGHT ON U. S. VIEWS (REFTELS) AND PRESIDENT WAS
" HIGHLY PLEASED" WITH U. S. POSITION. AS PROMISED, KIM
PROVIDED ME REVISED ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEXT OF PRESIDENT
PARK' S PROPOSED STATEMENT WHICH WE THEN REVIEWED IN DETAIL.
TEXT OF STATEMENT BEING FORWARDED IN SEPTTEL.

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2. I TOLD FONMIN THAT I HAD ONLY TWO SUBSTANTIVE POINTS ON DRAFT STATEMENT. FIRST, ALTHOUGH STATEMENT NOW INCLUDED REFERENCE TO DEBATE AND NORTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION AT UPCOMING UNGA AS WE HAD REQUESTED, THERE WAS STILL NO MENTION OF UNCURK. SECONDLY, STATEMENT ON NOT RECOGNIZING NORTH KOREA AS A STATE WAS STILL SUSCEPTIBLE TO INTERNATIONAL MISUNDERSTANDING.

3. KIM SAID THERE HAD BEEN LONG DISCUSSIONS ON WHETHER TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO UNCURK IN PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT. HOWEVER, IT WAS DECIDED THAT, EITHER PRIME MINISTER OR FOREIGN MINISTER IN POST- STATEMENT BRIEFING WOULD TELL PRESS THAT ROK IS NOT OPPOSED TO TERMINATION OF UNCURK, NOTING THAT ROKG IS ONLY ABIDING BY EXISTING UNGA RESOLUTIONS ON UNCURK. WOULD ALSO MAKE CLEAR ROKG WOULD NOT OPPOSE UNGA ACTION TO TERMINATE UNCURK. FONMIN PROMISED TO CONSIDER AGAIN POSSIBILITY OF SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO UNCURK IN STATEMENT BUT CLEARLY BELIEVED HANDLING MATTER IN PRESS BRIEFING WAS BEST APPROACH.

4. WITH REGARD PASSAGE ON RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA, KIM READILY ACCEDED TO MY SUGGESTION THAT WORDING BE MODIFIED TO READ "... DOES NOT SIGNIFY OUR RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA AS A STATE ". THIS AVOIDS ANY CONNOTATION THAT ROKG IS OPPOSING OTHER NATIONS EVENTUALLY RECOGNIZING NORTH KOREA.

5. FONMIN SAID FIRM DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO HAVE PRESIDENT READ SPECIAL STATEMENT TO PRESS AT 1000 HOURS (KST) JUNE 23. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN BY EITHER PRIME MINISTER OR FOREIGN MINISTER. KIM ALSO SAID THAT PRESIDENT WILL CONVENE NATIONAL UNIFICATION COUNCIL AT 0900 HOURS SAME DAY TO RECEIVE BRIEFING BY FONMIN. IN ADDITION, PRESIDENT WILL BRIEF SELECTED CABINET MEMBERS AND DRP LEADERS ON THURSDAY, JUNE 21. ON FRIDAY, PRESIDENT WILL MEET WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS, INCLUDING YU CHIN- SAN, TO REQUEST THEIR SUPPORT.

6. WITH REGARD CONSULTATIONS WITH ALLIES, KIM SAID HE WOULD CALL AUSTRALIAN, UK, AND JAPANESE AMBASSADORS SEPARATELY TODAY, JUNE 20. HE WOULD NOT GIVE JAPANESE SECRET

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TEXT OF STATEMENT BUT WOULD DISCUSS IT IN DETAIL ORALLY. (HE STILL FEARS LEAKS THROUGH JAPANESE AND WISHES AVOID PREMATURE APPEARANCE OF TEXT IN PRESS. I WAS NOT ABLE TO CONVINCE HIM OTHERWISE. HE DOES NOT HAVE SAME CONCERN WITH REGARD TO BRITISH OR AUSTRALIANS.) HE WOULD PLAN TO INFORM OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS, INCLUDING GERMAN AND UNCURK AMBASSADORS, ON FRIDAY.

7. KIM ASKED THAT USG BE PREPARED TO ISSUE SUPPORTING STATEMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRESIDENT PARK'S ANNOUNCEMENT. I ASSURED HIM WE WOULD AND PROMISED TO HAVE TEXT OF OUR STATEMENT TO SHOW HIM IN ADVANCE. KIM ALSO PROPOSED THAT HE AND I BEGIN SOON INITIAL DISCUSSIONS ON QUESTIONS RELATED TO UNC TERMINATION. SAID HE WOULD ALSO WANT TO BEGIN DISCUSSING TACTICS REGARDING UNGA, FOCUSING PARTICULARLY ON KINDS OF RESOLUTIONS WE MIGHT CONSIDER RE DEBATE ON KOREAN QUESTION, JOINT ADMISSION OF ROK AND NORTH KOREA, AND TERMINATION OF UNCURK. ON UNCURK, KIM INDICATED ROKG AT APPROPRIATE LATER TIME WANTS TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING ITS TERMINATION.

8. I SUGGESTED TO KIM THAT WE MEET JUNE 26 TO BETTER DEFINE THE AREAS WHICH NEED DETAILED STUDY AND INTENSIVE CONSULTATION. AT THAT POINT WE WOULD ALSO HAVE INITIAL REACTIONS TO JUNE 23 STATEMENT. KIM AGREED.

9. IN CLOSING KIM TOOK OCCASION TO CALL TO MY ATTENTION PASSAGE IN DRAFT STATEMENT ON RECIPROCAL RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OF DIFFERENT IDEOLOGIES AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS (POLICY PRINCIPLE SIX). KIM AGAIN EXPRESSED ROKG DESIRE THAT WE PRESS THIS POINT STRONGLY WITH COMMUNIST GREAT POWERS. I RECALLED THAT IN OUR CONVERSATION YESTERDAY I HAD STATED OUR WILLINGNESS IN REGARD TO APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS ON EVENHANDED TREATMENT (PARA B-1, REF B).

10. COMMENT: WHILE PERHAPS NOT THE WAY WE WOULD HAVE WRITTEN IT, I BELIEVE TEXT OF PRESIDENT PARK'S JUNE 23 STATEMENT IS NOW ADEQUATE FOR OUR PURPOSES. IT CLEARLY POINTS OUT THE NEW DIRECTION OF ROK FOREIGN POLICY AND I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND ATTEMPTING ANY FURTHER CHANGES. IT MAY BE WORDY AND A BIT CIRCUITOUS IN PROPER KOREAN STYLE,
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BUT NONE OF THE SUBSTANTIVE POINTS WILL BE LOST ON THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC. WE CAN ALSO EXPECT CONSIDERABLY MORE PRECISION IN PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING ISSUANCE.

11. WILL NEED SOONEST DEPARTMENT'S PLANNED PRESS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF KOREAN ANNOUNCEMENT. I SUGGEST FAIRLY BRIEF, GENERAL STATEMENT WELCOMING ROK INITIATIVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND INDICATING OUR FULLEST SUPPORT. RESPONSES TO POSSIBLE QUESTIONS SHOULD MAINTAIN SOME DEGREE OF BREVITY AND GIVE CREDIT TO ROKG. IF ASKED WE SHOULD CONFIRM PRIOR CONSULTATION.
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